

My Study Abroad in Granada, Spain

What Was My Project?

I used my STEP funds to study abroad in Spain for the Spring 2019 semester. I left in the beginning of January, stayed until my program ended in the end of May, and traveled around Europe for a month and a half afterwards. I took classes at the Centro de Lenguas Modernas through the University of Granada. I started off in an intensive month course, where we took daily speaking, writing, and grammar. Then during the semester, I continued with speaking, writing, and grammar and also took Art History and Spanish Literature. I stayed with a host family, and had the opportunity to do excursions with my program around Spain and Morocco.



Why Did I Choose This?

I studied Spanish in high school, and had always loved learning languages. I was also very interested in other cultures. I had known since before high school that I wanted to do a semester abroad, and I figured that going to a Spanish speaking country would be useful because you learn so much by immersing yourself in a language and forcing yourself to speak it everyday, and I definitely see that improvement now. In the future, I want to become a doctor and work with more underserved populations, so I hoped that my new knowledge of Spanish would help me to reach some of the non-English speaking population in the US that often gets neglected by health care due to these language barriers.

How Was This Transformational?

I learned a lot about myself and what I was capable of during my time abroad. I was very scared to go to a country where I didn't know anyone and travel around a different continent without the guidance of someone else, so accomplishing these things was a big deal for me. I gained a lot of independence and confidence in myself, and reassured myself that I was going on the right path. In addition, I gained confidence in my Spanish-speaking abilities. By the end of the five months, I could hold conversations with native Spanish speakers and make my way around the country all by myself. My study abroad experience helped me grow so much as a person, and it's an experience I will never forget.

